

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DHAHRA 00181 131245Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 CU-04 COME-00 EB-08 /026 W
-----131253Z 027146 /47

P R 131205Z FEB 77
FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5248
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
USLO RIYADH
USIA WASHDC
COMMISSIONER USINS WASHDC

UNCLAS DHAHRAN 0181

DEPT FOR NEA/ARP
JIDDA ALSO FOR USIS
RIYADH FOR JON STEWART

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, CVIS, BEXP
SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY OF PETROLEUM AND MINERALS TRAINING
PROGRAMS IN US

1. UNIVERSITY OF PETROLEUM AND MINERALS (UPM), DHAHRAN, CURRENTLY ENCOUNTERING DIFFICULTIES IN PROCESSING H-3 VISA PETITIONS FOR 15 OF ITS ENGINEERING STUDENTS FOR WHOM CO-OP TRAINING POSITIONS WITH US COMPANIES HAVE BEEN ARRANGED. UPM HAS RECEIVED TELEGRAMS FROM BECHTEL IN SAN FRANCISCO AND ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL IN CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA, STATING THAT INS OFFICES SERVING THOSE LOCATIONS ANTICIPATE UP TO THREE MONTHS DELAY IN PROCESSING I-129(B) PETITIONS RECEIVED ON BEHALF OF UPM STUDENTS.

2. ALUMNI OF THIS UPM PROGRAM ARE EXPECTED TO WORK IN MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR JUBAIL INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX EITHER DIRECTLY WITH AMERICAN COMPANIES OR AS GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS SUPERVISING WORK OF AMERICAN COMPANIES. POST UNDERSTANDS
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SAG CONSIDERING TIEING CONTRACTS TO BE AWARDED IN JUBAIL TO WILLINGNESS OF CONTRACTING COMPANIES TO ACCEPT SAUDI STUDENTS FOR TRAINING. AMERICAN COMPANIES ARE NOW CERTAINLY UNDER SOME PRESSURE TO ACCEPT STUDENTS. FROM POINT OF VIEW OF AMERICAN INTERESTS, GIVING OPPORTUNITIES TO SAUDI ARABIA'S FUTURE MANAGERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO STUDY IN US WITH AMERICAN CORPORATIONS COULD PAY SUBSTANTIAL DIVIDENDS IN FUTURE SALES OF

AMERICAN PRODUCTS. UPM HAS PLACED SEVEN STUDENTS IN JAPAN WITH JAPANESE FIRMS FOR A SPRING SEMESTER AND HAS ALSO PLACED OTHERS IN GERMANY AND FRANCE, ALL WITHOUT ENCOUNTERING SIGNIFICANT DELAYS DUE TO VISA DIFFICULTIES.

3. UPM BEGAN PROJECT MONTHS AGO IN ATTEMPT TO PLACE STUDENTS FOR TRAINING DURING SPRING SEMESTER AND SUMMER SESSION (ACCORDING TO UPM ACADEMIC CALENDAR SPRING SEMESTER BEGINS FEB 12 THIS YEAR). IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE PROGRAM COULD HAVE FOR AMERICAN COMPANIES OPERATING IN SAUDI ARABIA, REQUEST DEPT SEEK EXPEDITIOUS PROCESSING OF THESE PETITIONS BY INS, IN THOSE CASES IN WHICH SLOWNESS IS DUE ONLY TO ADMINISTRATIVE DELAYS AND UNRELATED TO BONA FIDES OF APPLICANTS. POST BELIEVES THAT PLACING OF UPM STUDENTS WOULD WORK MORE SMOOTHLY IF IN FUTURE THOSE STUDENTS WERE

ISSUED J-1 VISAS AS PARTICIPANTS IN EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM. REQUEST DEPARTMENT ASSIST UPM IN ESTABLISHING SUCH PROGRAM.
BUSHNELL

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